

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification is amended to correct minor informalities. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,757,399 to Murayama et al. (Murayama). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, a secondary recovery portion including an ink absorber, which absorbs the ink due to a capillary phenomenon from the primary recovery portion to recover the ink. Murayama does not teach, nor cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested such a feature.

The Office Action alleges that the ink catch 2032 (Fig. 15A) functions as a secondary recovery portion, wherein the walls of the ink catch serve as an ink absorber and absorb the ink due to a capillary phenomenon from the primary recovery portion.

Neither the walls of the ink catch nor the ink catch 2032 itself can reasonably be considered to correspond to a secondary recovery portion as claim 1 recites. The walls of the ink catch do not play a role in moving the waste ink from the primary recovery portion to the secondary recovery. Fig. 16 of Murayama clearly illustrates that the ink merely drops from the waste ink opening 13 of container 2 into waste ink catch 2032. Thus, the ink in Murayama is not transferred from container 2 to the waste ink catch 2032 by an ink absorber due to the capillary phenomenon.

For at least this reason, Murayama cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested the combination of all of the features positively recited in claim 1. Further, dependent claims 2-9 are also not taught, nor would they have been suggested by Murayama

for at least their respective dependence directly or indirectly on an allowable base claim, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: November 17, 2006

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